



Happenings in the Office of Attorney General Steve Carter

July 24, 2008

Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter Highlights New Consumer Laws

New laws that took effect July 1 help protect Indiana children and consumers, announced Attorney General Steve Carter. They include a law targeting the illicit use of the internet by registered child sex offenders, and a new resource for Hoosiers at risk for identity theft. [Press Release](#)



"It's no secret that predators use social networking sites to lure young victims, but this new law makes cyberspace safer for our kids."

Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter

Attorney General Steve Carter's Office Has a 100% Success Rate before the U.S. Supreme Court this Term

The United States Supreme Court has ruled 7-2 in favor of the state in a criminal case from Marion County that reviewed whether state trial courts may protect the fairness of a trial by rejecting a mentally impaired defendant's request to represent himself. In March, Attorney General Steve Carter attended the oral arguments of *Indiana v. Ahmad Edwards* (No. 07-208).

"I am pleased that the court has carefully weighed a defendant's interest in autonomy with the importance of a fair trial," said Carter. "In this instance, the defendant's mental condition rendered him unable to carry out the most basic functions necessary to try his own case. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly said that the right of self-representation is not absolute, and it reinforced that view in this decision." [Press Release](#)



United States District Court Ruling Gives the Green Light to the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization (RICO) Lawsuit against Former East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick and other Defendants

"This ruling gives us the green light to move this case forward to trial against those that were part of a sidewalks for vote scheme that cost the City of East Chicago and its citizens millions of taxpayer dollars," said Carter.



"The court has unequivocally denied the motions of two primary defendants to have the case thrown out on legal grounds. This is a major step forward in the fight against public corruption and in restoring public confidence in local government in Lake County, where a pattern of problems have been uncovered over time. It gives citizens their day in court." [Press Release](#)

Indiana Receives More than \$2.2 million from Bristol-Myers Squibb For Overcharges to the Medicaid Program

Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter says Indiana has received \$2.2 million as part of a \$500 million national settlement with drug maker Bristol-Myers Squibb.

"Taxpayers are ultimately harmed when companies take advantage of governmental services to help the underprivileged," said Carter. [Press Release](#)



Agreement Reached between MoneyGram and Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter

Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter announced that MoneyGram Payment Systems, Inc., has entered into an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance (AVC) with Indiana and 43 other States and the District of Columbia, in response to concerns about the use of the company's wire transfer services by fraudulent telemarketers.



Under the agreement, MoneyGram will, among other things, fund a \$1.1 million national consumer awareness program and prominently place consumer warnings on wire transfer forms used by consumers. [Press Release](#)

Attorney General Steve Carter Takes Action to Stop Illegal Phone Calls *Company Accused of Violating Do Not Call Law*

A Florida business has agreed to stop calling Indiana citizens registered on the Do Not Call list, Announced Attorney General Steve Carter.

A court-ordered agreement, filed in Marion County Court, prevents Automotive Advantage Club (AAC) and its operator, Bryan Karle, from violating Indiana's Telephone Privacy Act in the future. [Press Release](#)



Don't Get Hooked by Phishing Scams

A new wave of sophisticated phishing scams is landing in e-mail in-boxes, cautions Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter.

Phishing is a type of deception designed to steal consumers' identities by tricking them into providing personal financial information, such as credit card numbers and passwords. The messages often look authentic, official,, and feather corporate logos. [Press Release](#)

Attorney General Steve Carter Sues Indianapolis Residents Peddling Tanning Products *Customers Burned by Online Sales*

Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter has filed a lawsuit against four Indianapolis residents for failing to deliver tanning products sold online.



The attorney general alleges that Trina S. Hasty, Wendy J. Hasty, Virginia L. Hoffman and Dane A. Laster advertised and sold tanning lotions, oils and other products using more than a dozen business names. They include Lotion Town, lotiontown.com, Tanning Products, Indoor Tanning Lotion, Best Indoor Tanning, Cheaper Lotions, Payless Lotions and paylesslotions.com. [Press Release](#)